



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Beger, et al.) Examiner: A. Ramana
)
Serial No.: 10/763,961) Art Unit: 3733
)
Filed: January 23, 2004)
)

For: **LOCKING MECHANISM FOR A BONE SCREW**

MAIL STOP: AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

August 15, 2006.
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Carol Prentice

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed on June 26, 2006.
Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the remarks which follow.

Summary

Claims 5, 6, and 9-29 are pending.

Claims 5, 6, 9-16 and 18-19 are allowed.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 27 contains allowable subject matter.

Claims 17, 20-25 and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Eckhof (US 5,902,303).

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eckhof in view of Bray (US 6,235,034).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

ENTRY RECOMMENDED. AL 8/23/06.
Entry approved. 8/23/06